

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 223

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO RURAL EDUCATION SUPPORT NETWORKS; AMENDING CHAPTER 3, TITLE
2 33, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 33-319A, IDAHO CODE,
3 TO AUTHORIZE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RURAL EDUCATION SUPPORT NETWORKS, TO
4 PROVIDE FOR THEIR MEMBERSHIP, DUTIES, GOVERNANCE AND FUNDING, TO DEFINE
5 TERMS AND TO AUTHORIZE RULEMAKING; AND PROVIDING A SUNSET DATE.
6

7 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

8 SECTION 1. That Chapter 3, Title 33, Idaho Code, be, and the same is
9 hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and des-
10 ignated as Section 33-319A, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

11 33-319A. RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS -- RURAL EDUCATION SUPPORT NET-
12 WORKS. (1) As used in this section:

13 (a) "Business" means any non-religious corporation, partnership or
14 sole proprietorship.

15 (b) "Institute of higher education" means any public, degree-granting
16 two (2) or four (4) year college or university, technical college or ca-
17 reer technical school.

18 (c) "Member" means a school district, institute of higher education or
19 business that has entered into a memorandum of understanding with a ru-
20 ral education support network.

21 (d) "Network" means the rural education support network as established
22 in this section.

23 (e) "School district" includes an Idaho public school district, public
24 charter school and the school for the deaf and the blind.

25 (f) "Workforce development" means providing individuals with the op-
26 portunity for a sustainable livelihood through collaboration between
27 public and private entities within a community.

28 (2) The establishment of rural education support networks is hereby au-
29 thorized. A network is defined as an opt-in body that will:

30 (a) Facilitate the coordination or sharing of educational or workforce
31 development instruction, programs, services or information among its
32 members not in conflict with other laws;

33 (b) Assist members in finding and procuring educational or workforce
34 development funds through available grants or philanthropy;

35 (c) Seek to improve the efficacy and impact of existing educational
36 or workforce development resources, and to assist members in doing the
37 same;

38 (d) Aspire to provide increased educational or workforce development
39 opportunities to students;

40 (e) Be dedicated to developing a well-educated and well-trained work-
41 force in the communities it serves;

1 (f) Have a membership composed of school districts, institutes of
2 higher education and businesses, or any combination thereof, to include
3 no fewer than six (6) school districts, and at least one (1) rural school
4 district as defined in section 33-319, Idaho Code;

5 (g) Provide opportunity for school districts to work collaboratively
6 with institutes of higher education and businesses in the interest of
7 educational or workforce development outcomes within the communities
8 involved with the network;

9 (h) Occupy a physical space for the intent of fulfilling the adminis-
10 tration and management of the network, but not to serve as the desig-
11 nated, sole location for the delivery of in-person educational or work-
12 force development instruction, programs, services or information; and

13 (i) Adhere to the requirements of this section and to the rules promul-
14 gated for the administration and implementation of this section.

15 (3) Upon finalization of a memorandum of understanding (MOU), a school
16 district, institute of higher education or business shall become a member
17 of the network. The MOU is finalized when it is signed by the director of
18 the network and a representative of the district, business or institute of
19 higher education who holds signatory authority. All finalized MOUs shall be
20 in writing using the current model MOU developed by the state department of
21 education. School districts may attach to the model contract addenda to meet
22 local criteria. No MOU shall cover a period of time exceeding five (5) years.

23 (4) The network shall be governed by its members using a governance
24 structure determined by its members. Members of each network shall:

25 (a) Determine the measures through which the educational or workforce
26 development impact of each network shall be evaluated and reported pur-
27 suant to paragraph (b) of this subsection;

28 (b) Report annually to the legislature and the superintendent of public
29 instruction on the impact of the network, using the measures determined
30 pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection;

31 (c) Direct the director of the network to use available funds to address
32 educational or workforce development needs pursuant to subsection (2)
33 of this section; and

34 (d) Determine how the director of the network is hired and fired.

35 (5) Each network shall be administered by a director who shall:

36 (a) Be selected by the districts, institutes of higher education and
37 businesses, or any combination thereof, that seek to establish the net-
38 work, and be accountable to the network's members;

39 (b) Become employed by a district that seeks to establish the network
40 for purposes of employee benefits upon establishment of the network;

41 (c) Facilitate the process through which each member's educational or
42 workforce development needs are diagnosed and addressed;

43 (d) Engage members or representatives of each member through regular
44 collaboration and ongoing communication;

45 (e) Adhere to the established governance structure of the network;

46 (f) Regularly inform the superintendent of public instruction of the
47 educational or workforce development needs of their network, in a man-
48 ner determined by the superintendent of public instruction and agreed
49 upon by directors of all networks; and

1 (g) Coordinate the use of funds available to the network as determined
2 by its members to address educational or workforce development needs
3 pursuant to subsection (2) of this section.

4 (6) The superintendent of public instruction shall establish one (1)
5 network in fiscal year 2018. When desired by its members and the state de-
6 partment of education, and where appropriate for purposes of documenting
7 and creating a base of knowledge from which future networks may draw, this
8 network shall collaborate with the state department of education. Funding
9 allocated to this network will be made pursuant to subsection (7) of this
10 section. No additional networks may be established until such time as the
11 superintendent of public instruction and the legislature review the first
12 three (3) annual reports of the first network pursuant to subsection (4) of
13 this section and determine that the program has been effective. Such de-
14 termination shall be made three (3) years after the first network has been
15 established.

16 (7) The superintendent of public instruction shall provide funding for
17 each network as described in this subsection. Funding from the superinten-
18 dent of public instruction to each network shall be:

19 (a) Used for any of the following: the salary of the director of the
20 network, salaries for additional network staff, employee benefits of
21 the director, employee benefits for any additional network staff, rent,
22 utilities, legal services, travel, and the procurement or provision of
23 educational or workforce development instruction, programs, resources
24 or information;

25 (b) Provided for the fiscal year during which the network is estab-
26 lished, and for up to two (2) additional fiscal years immediately
27 following the fiscal year during which the network is established; and

28 (c) Provided at the discretion of the superintendent of public instruc-
29 tion based on the annual reported impact and needs of the network.

30 (8) The state board of education shall promulgate rules for the admin-
31 istration and implementation of this chapter.

32 SECTION 2. The provisions of Section 1 of this act shall be null, void
33 and of no force and effect on and after July 1, 2021.